

## Request for extension of deadline to file Form 471 for E-Rate year 2016 for our internet access

For more than 10 years we have been part of a consortium of school districts that work together to provide long-distance teaching for students in other districts (TRITON). This provides an opportunity for a larger class size than could be obtained by just one district, for example a class teaching Japanese. A school district may not be able to have a teacher for one High School class of Japanese, but a teacher in one district could teach students in 9 districts at the same time through internet video connections.

In July 2015, we employed a brand new Superintendent. He was not familiar with this TRITON consortium. Then, during the 15-16 school year, the fiscal agent for the TRITON consortium changed hands. The new person there reached out to all the districts in the consortium to verify continued participation. We are not exactly sure who they reached out to in our district, but the communication fell through the cracks and was missed. The new fiscal agent for TRITON did not include our school district in the FORM 470 and Form 471 E-Rate applications with USAC.

I was able to include the internet access on our Form 470, RFP, but did not include it in the Form 471 application for funding. By the time we realized that the TRITON consortium had excluded our school district, the window was closed. I filed the Form 471 as soon as we could, but too late. The Form 471 was submitted with USAC on their EPC platform, but it is just sitting there certified and not denied or approved.

To make matters worse, the internet provider just realized that they did not invoice us quarterly and sent us an invoice for the entire past 16-17 school year.

We are requesting an extension of the deadline to include this in the 2016 E-Rate year.

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